Inaugural
DONALD L. HOLLOWELL
Lecture

April 2, 2012
7:00 PM

Mahler Auditorium
The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education
Athens, GA
The Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and Research (FSP) chronicles the lives and stories of unsung heroes in the black freedom struggle, providing a grassroots view of historical events that helped advance social and economic justice in the U.S. By recovering the contributions of previously overlooked events and figures in history, the FSP highlights the pivotal role of the many individuals, groups, and communities whose collective efforts yielded social change.

In 2002, UGA professors and FSP researchers Maurice Daniels and Derrick Alridge (now Professor of Education, University of Virginia) began production of a documentary on the legacy of Donald L. Hollowell. Hollowell’s historical visibility has largely been limited to his role in the Holmes v. Danner case and his representation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in King v. State. But research into many primary and secondary sources reveals a multitude of other accomplishments, including playing pivotal behind-the-scenes roles as a lawyer and chief negotiator in the historic Atlanta Student Movement and Albany Movement of the 1960s.

As a defense attorney, Hollowell’s commitment to racial justice saved the lives of many African Americans whose fate might otherwise have been Georgia’s electric chair. His work on a broad spectrum of legal cases set precedents for future cases, won justice for individuals subjected to “quick” trials without due process, and helped Georgia repudiate its segregationist past to become more economically, politically, and socially progressive.

In 2006, seeking to illuminate Hollowell’s contributions and educate future generations about the significance of Hollowell’s achievements, Dean Daniels proposed the endowment of a professorship to continue his legacy. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. chaired the Hollowell Endowment Committee, which received strong support from President Michael Adams, then-Provost Arnett Mace, the School of Social Work (SSW) faculty, and the University community. In 2010, at the world premiere of the film Donald L. Hollowell: Foot Soldier for Equal Justice, Jordan announced the endowment of the Donald L. Hollowell Distinguished Professorship of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies, the first distinguished professorship at UGA named for an African American.

In 2010, President Adams and Provost Jere Morehead approved a faculty line for the professorship, which led to the selection of Dr. Obie Clayton as the inaugural Hollowell Professor. Clayton is best known for his service and research examining race relations, urban inequality, demography, and the family. Before joining the SSW, Clayton served as the director of sponsored programs and director of the Morehouse Research Institute at Morehouse College. Prior to that, he was chair and professor of the Morehouse Department of Sociology. He also served as the vice provost for research at Morehouse and as editor of Challenge: A Journal of Research on African American Men.

In his new role at UGA, Clayton has initiated the Hollowell Lecture Series, which will annually feature nationally and internationally known scholars and activists who have worked in the areas of civil rights and the peace movement. The lecture series expands the existing scholarship on civil and human rights at the University, providing further models that can be incorporated into the curriculum and disseminated through professional disciplinary organizations.
PROGRAM

Donald L. Hollowell: Foot Soldier for Equal Justice - Slideshow and Five Minute Excerpt*

WELCOME
Dr. Obie Clayton
Donald L. Hollowell Distinguished Professor of
Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies

GREETINGS
Tom Landrum
Senior Vice President for External Affairs

OPENING REMARKS
Dr. Maurice Daniels
Dean and Professor, School of Social Work
Director, Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and Research

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Emily Wipper, MSW ’12

LECTURE
Dr. William Julius Wilson
Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser
University Professor at Harvard University

“Affirmative Opportunity in the Barack Obama Era”

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
Dr. Obie Clayton
Moderator

CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. Obie Clayton

*The five-minute excerpt from the documentary, Donald L. Hollowell Foot Soldier for Equal Justice, is the fourth installment developed by the University of Georgia’s Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and Research. Other films include: Honace T. Ward: Foot Soldier for Equal Justice, Parts I and II and Hamilton Earl Holmes: The Legacy Continues.

Executive Producers: Maurice C. Daniels and Derrick P. Alridge
Dr. William Julius Wilson
Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor
Harvard University

William Julius Wilson is the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor at Harvard University. He is one of only 24 University Professors, the highest professional distinction for a Harvard faculty member.

After receiving the Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1966, Wilson taught sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst before joining the University of Chicago faculty in 1972. In 1990 he was appointed the Lucy Flower University Professor and director of the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Urban Inequality. He joined the faculty at Harvard in July of 1996.

Past President of the American Sociological Association, Wilson has received 44 honorary degrees, including honorary doctorates from Princeton, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins, Dartmouth, and the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands. A MacArthur Prize Fellow from 1987 to 1992, Wilson has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Education, the American Philosophical Society, the Institute of Medicine, and the British Academy. In June 1996 he was selected by Time magazine as one of America's 25 Most Influential People. He is a recipient of the 1998 National Medal of Science, the highest scientific honor bestowed in the United States, and was awarded the Talcott Parsons Prize in the Social Sciences by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003.

He is the author of numerous publications, including The Declining Significance of Race, winner of the American Sociological Association's Sydney Spivack Award; The Truly Disadvantaged, which was selected by the editors of the New York Times Book Review as one of the 16 best books of 1987, and received The Washington Monthly Annual Book Award and the Society for the Study of Social Problems' C. Wright Mills Award; When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor, which was selected as one of the notable books of 1996 by the editors of the New York Times Book Review and received the Sidney Hillman Foundation Award; and The Bridge Over the Racial Divide: Rising Inequality and Coalition Politics. More recently he is the co-author of There Goes the

Other honors granted to Wilson include the Seidman Award in Political Economy (the first and only non-economist to receive the Award); the Golden Plate Achievement Award; the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Washington State University; the American Sociological Association’s DuBois, Johnson, Frazier Award (for significant scholarship in the field of inter-group relations); the American Sociological Association’s Award for Public Understanding of Sociology; Burton Gordon Feldman Award (“for outstanding contributions in the field of public policy”) Brandeis University; the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Award (granted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Los Angeles); and the Aaron Wildavsky Enduring Contribution Award, for The Truly Disadvantaged and When Work Disappears, from the American Political Science Association. He was designated a Walter Channing Cabot Fellow at Harvard University for 2009-10.

Professor Wilson is a member of numerous national boards and commissions, and was previously the Chair of the Board of The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and of the Russell Sage Foundation, and a member of the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships from 1994 to 2001.

Quick Facts:

- One of 24 University Professors at Harvard University, an honor bestowed upon a very small number of tenured faculty members whose scholarship and other professional work have attained particular distinction and influence
- Received 44 honorary degrees
- Selected by Time magazine in 1996 as one of America’s “25 Most Influential People”
- Recipient of the 1998 National Medal of Science, the highest scientific honor bestowed in the United States

Photograph by Marcus Halevi
Donald L. Hollowell was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. Although in Kansas Hollowell did not encounter the intense Jim Crow restrictions of the South, he faced blatant racial discrimination while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. Hollowell’s experiences with segregation and his involvement with the Southern Negro Youth Congress after the war inspired him to pursue the study of the law, which ultimately became his weapon of choice in the fight for social justice for blacks in the South and across the nation.

In 1947, Hollowell graduated magna cum laude from Lane College in Tennessee. He earned his law degree from Loyola University in Chicago in 1951. In 1952, he set up a law practice in Atlanta and began to play a major role in the burgeoning civil rights struggle. In addition to his success in the historic Holmes v. Danner case, Hollowell won a victory in the Georgia Court of Appeals in 1960 when he secured the release of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from the Reidsville State Prison. Less than a year later Hollowell prevented the electrocution of a 15-year-old black youth from Monticello, Georgia, five days before his scheduled execution.

Hollowell became intensely involved in the fight for social justice and invited three promising young lawyers to become partners in his law firm: Horace T. Ward, who later became the first African American federal court judge in Georgia; William H. Alexander, who later became a superior court judge; and Howard Moore, Jr., who later represented black activist Angela Davis in her celebrated California trial. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., who moved to the forefront of the civil rights movement as the National Urban League’s executive director, was among other dynamic figures who were associated with the Hollowell firm.

Hollowell litigated several far-reaching civil rights cases in various state and federal courts. In 1961-1962, Hollowell and civil rights champion C. B. King defended hundreds of civil rights activists in the historic Albany Movement. Hollowell was chief counsel in landmark cases that led to the desegregation of public schools, public transportation, public hospitals and in numerous other precedent-setting civil rights cases.

Hollowell’s brilliance, dedication and masterful courtroom skills made him Georgia’s foremost civil rights attorney during the 1950s and 1960s. This led to his appointment in 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson as regional director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, making him the first black regional director of a major federal agency. As president of the Voter Education Project from 1971-1986, Hollowell helped increase the number of African-American voters in the Southern states from 3 million to 5.5 million.

In 2002, the University of Georgia honored Hollowell with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for “exemplary and broad contributions to society.” Hollowell was married for 61 years to Louise Thornton Hollowell, a magna cum laude graduate and later a distinguished Professor of English (Emerita) at Morris Brown College.

The 87-year-old civil rights pioneer died of heart failure on December 27, 2004, but his legacy lives on among the scores of those he influenced and uplifted. His dedication and sacrifice for the ideals of equal opportunity and social justice changed the course of our nation’s history and will continue to open doors of opportunity for generations to come.
The Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and Research seeks to establish an archival and documentary research infrastructure for studying, disseminating, and preserving information and scholarship on the civil rights movement, social justice and reform, and policy-related issues. Its aim is to advance civil rights scholarship while contributing more broadly to enhancing local and national discourses on diversity and equity.

This project centers on chronicling the lives and stories of those “foot soldiers for equal justice” whose names may not be familiar, but whose dedication to the cause of equality and civil rights formed the backbone of a movement that brought about sweeping changes in the nation’s history. It seeks to illuminate the contributions of some of the foremost, yet still unsung, twentieth century freedom fighters in order to provide a fuller understanding of issues of race, equity, and social reform in Georgia and the South during the 1950s and 1960s. Such work will help to illustrate how social change and social reform results from the hard work and dedication not only of the few celebrated figures whose names are preserved in history books and movies, but also of the countless committed individuals whose contributions, while unrecognized, are nevertheless crucial.

The FSP focuses on Georgia’s rich history in the civil rights movement. The scope of the project will evolve to include civil rights studies throughout the southeastern United States.

The impact and significance of the Foot Soldier Project is both local and far-reaching. The Project makes its materials available to current and future scholars, students, teachers, and policymakers, thus exposing a wide range of individuals to largely unknown facets of the struggle for civil rights. Research from the project is made available through documentary films, publications, research seminars, thematic exhibits, community educational forums, and the FSP website. Dissemination through these formats introduces new and older generations of citizens to knowledge and experiences that have the potential to expand and enrich society’s ongoing conversations about issues of ethnic, gender, and cultural diversity.

For more information about the Foot Soldier Project visit www.footsoldier.uga.edu

Photo Courtesy of Greensboro News & Record
The Donald L. Hollowell Lecture is sponsored by the University of Georgia School of Social Work and the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and Research.
For more information, visit ssw.uga.edu.